



**ROCK COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, September 11, 2024 – 4:30 P.M.**



Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, in the Boardroom, at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center, Janesville, WI.

Committee Members Present: Supervisor Brian Knudson, (Chair); Supervisor Ron Woodman (Vice Chair); Supervisor Kathy Schulz; Supervisor Genia Stevens; Supervisor Barb Tillman; Supervisor April Whitledge; and Citizen Representative Sally Jean Weaver-Landers

Virtual Committee Members: Citizen Representative Ashley Hoffman

Committee Members Absent: Citizen Representative Phil Boutwell

Staff Present: Kate Luster, Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Jillian Cline, Business Supervisor; Greg Winkler, Deputy Director

Virtual attendees: Chuck Flynn, Sheila Williams, Kami Williams, Sue Ryan

Others Present: Niqu Linneman, Kelsey Hood-Christenson, Supervisor Mike Schwarz

Approval of Agenda: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the agenda to the floor, second by Supervisor Schulz. The agenda was unanimously approved by voice vote. Approved.

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting August 28, 2024: Supervisor Whitledge moved the minutes to the floor, second by Supervisor Schulz. The minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote. Approved.

Public Comment: Sheila Williams was making a virtual comment on the resolution for Awarding Contracts for Human Trafficking Prevention Services; however, it was cut off. Ms. Williams did mention that she felt the resolution was vague and services are not specified in the resolution.

Communication and Announcements from Staff and Board Members: None

Review of Bills: Ms. Cline provided detail and responded to questions.

Review and Approval of Resolutions:

Awarding Contracts for Human Trafficking Prevention Services- Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the resolution to the floor, second by Supervisor Schulz. Ms. Luster spoke about the resolution in that it allows us to move forward with contracts with budgeted ARPA funding for Human Trafficking. There was a resolution that was approved by the HS Board last year and then appeared on the County Board in which these funds were included in the budget for specifically for Human Trafficking prevention Ms. Luster reviewed parts of the approved resolution with the HS Board. Ms. Luster reported that we received 2 proposals, and we would like to contract with both proposing agencies. These funds must be allocated by end of 2024 and to be used by the end of 2026. The goal is to build community capacity to support and strengthen families and reduce risk factors for involvement in CPS, YJ and other areas that increase likelihood of human trafficking.

The proposal from Family Services allows us to build on a program already happening in Beloit with their Neighborhood Resilience Project and the Rock Families First Movement around building stronger families. The Beehive in Beloit is a group of families there that have come to the table to develop ways to help families in the community after adverse interactions with CPS. Awarding this to Family Services in Beloit allows us to implement many ideas that were brought to the table by the community and The Beehive and blend these funds with another grant from Alia for resources of community and neighborhood prevention. This will set us up for future funding possibilities there. The requested amount for the Family Services Contract is \$825,000 through the end of 2026.

The second proposal was from Janesville Community Center Inc which is a relatively new non-profit in Janesville located in the 4th Ward. JCC was launched in 2018. They are a growing hub of community support in that neighborhood. There are a lot of needs and resources needed for families near and around the Janesville Community Services. This award would help give them the boost to the organization to establish themselves in the same way to prevent entry into our mandated systems. Both efforts help us push resources into the community so they can get help before they need our high-end services.

Ms. Luster responded to questions about the ability to provide services and supports to families across the county and about the sustainability plan for after these funds are spent. Supervisor Tillman acknowledged the problem of Human Trafficking and reported that she had not received enough information ahead of the meeting and would like more time to review the actual proposals which were provided at the meeting.

Supervisor Tillman made a motion to postpone the resolution to the next HS Board Meeting on 9/25/2024, second by Vice Chair Woodman. Supervisor Stevens commented that there is enough information to consider the resolution today. The motion to postpone the resolution passed with seven yays, and one nay. Citizen Representative Boutwell was absent. Postponed until 9/25/24.

Reports and Update:

Director's Report:

Stable Housing Partnership Initiative Report – Ms. Luster – In an effort to increase access to affordable housing, we will be seeking proposals from landlords where we start small by guaranteeing rent on a block of apartments-if they save that space for our clients. We are currently working with corporation counsel on how to advance this.

WCA Call for Resolutions for Mental Health Funding – Ms. Luster – WI Counties Association works closely with the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) and is working to be prepared for the next state budget cycle. WCA is asking counties to pass resolutions to increase funding for mental health services at the county level, specifically Crisis and Community Support Programs. These programs are Medicaid funded, but Counties do not get the full Medicaid reimbursement rate, only the federal portion. These are expensive services, and it is a significant amount of tax levy that goes into this. The ask is that the state increases by covering the non-federal share so that it does not fall on the county to cover. The Board can expect a resolution to come back in the future for consideration. Chair Knudson suggested that these resolutions are often brought forward along with other lobbying/advocacy resolutions at the same time, determined by the County Board Chair.

Ms. Luster responded to questions.

Committee Requests: None

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 4:30 PM. It will be a hybrid meeting via Zoom and in-person at the DWRC, in the **Boardroom**, 1717 Center Avenue, Janesville, WI. If you cannot make the meeting, please email Chrissy Arambula (Christina.Arambula@co.rock.wi.us) to ensure a quorum is present.

Adjournment: Supervisor Schulz motioned to adjourn, second by Supervisor Whitledge with unanimous approval at 5:06 PM.

Chrissy Arambula, Administrative Professional III

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD